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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,387	03/28/2001	Paul W. Bennett	5676-00500	7156
7590		06/14/2004	EXAMINER	
Jeffrey C. Hood		BURGE, LONDRA C		
Conely, Rose, & Tayon, P.C.		ART UNIT		
P.O. Box 398		2178		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PRG

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/820,387	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BENNETT, PAUL W.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Londra C Burge	<b>Art Unit</b> 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Original Application filed 3/28/2001.
2. Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 13 and 26 are independent claims.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. **Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10-11, 13-15, 17, 19, 22-23, 25-27, 29, 31 and 34-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Schlafly U.S. Patent No. 5,633,998 filed 7/18/1995.**

**In regard to independent claim 1,** Schlafly discloses *entering a first set of data in a first set of fields displayed in columnar format in a first column on a display screen* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet wherein the first set of data is in a column); *entering a second set of data in a second set of fields displayed in columnar format in the first column on the display screen, wherein the first column comprises the first set of fields displayed vertically and the second set of fields displayed vertically, and wherein the first column comprises a single column label which spans the width of one of the first set of fields and one of the second set of fields;* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet wherein the second set of data is in a column and where both the first and second fields are vertically displaying and in a single column, and both have labels) *displaying the first set of data in the first set of fields and the second set of data in the second set of fields, wherein the first set of fields is displayed to the left of the second set of fields*

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(Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet containing first and second fields and where the first field is the left of the second field); *and redisplaying the first set of data in the first set of fields and the second set of data in the second set of fields, wherein the first set of fields is displayed to the right of the second set of fields.* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where it is well known in the art the spreadsheet columns can be moved)

**In regard to dependent claim 2,** Schlafly discloses *wherein the single column label is displayed at the top of the column.* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where the column contain labels)

**In regard to dependent claim 3,** Schlafly discloses *wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of fields below the single column label; and wherein a second field label is displayed for the second set of fields in a same row* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where the column contain labels on the first and second set of fields)

**In regard to dependent claim 5,** Schlafly discloses *wherein the second set of data comprises one or more mathematical operators; and wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more operation fields.* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where the second column contains mathematical operators and operation fields)

**In regard to dependent claim 7,** Schlafly discloses *wherein the second set of data comprises one or more numeric values; and wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more number fields.* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where the second column contains numeric values and number fields)

**In regard to independent claim 10,** Schlafly discloses *entering a third set of data in a third set of fields displayed in columnar format in a second column on the display screen*

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(Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet wherein the third set of data is in a column and it is well known in the art that spreadsheets can contain more than one set of data in one column); *entering a fourth set of data in a fourth set of fields displayed in columnar format in the second column on the display screen, wherein the second column comprises the third set of fields displayed vertically and the fourth set of fields displayed vertically, and wherein the second column comprises a second single column label which spans the width of one of the third set of fields and one of the fourth set of fields* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet wherein the second set of data is in a column and where both the third and fourth fields are vertically displaying and in a single column and it is well known in the art that spreadsheets can contain more than one set of data in one column, and both have labels); *and displaying the third set of data in the third set of fields and the fourth set of data in the fourth set of fields, wherein the third set of fields is displayed to the left of the fourth set of fields.* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where it is well known in the art the spreadsheet columns can be moved)

**In regard to dependent claim 11,** Schlafly discloses *redisplaying the third set of data in the third set of fields and the fourth set of data in the fourth set of fields, wherein the third set of fields is displayed to the right of the fourth set of fields.* (Schlafly Figure 2A shows a spreadsheet where it is well known in the art the spreadsheet columns can be moved)

**In regard to independent claim 13,** claim 13 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

A CPU wherein memory stores program instruction (Schlafly Col 6 Lines 16-27 i.e. CPU, a display device, a main memory.)

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**In regard to dependent claim 14**, claim 14 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 15**, claim 15 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 17**, claim 17 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 19**, claim 19 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 22**, claim 22 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 10 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 23**, claim 23 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 11 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to independent claim 25**, claim 25 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system and Col 6 Lines 16-27 a main memory.)

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**In regard to dependent claim 26**, claim 26 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 27**, claim 27 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 29**, claim 29 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 31**, claim 31 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 34**, claim 34 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 10 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 35**, claim 35 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 11 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

5. **Claims 4, 6, 12, 16, 18, 24, 28, 30 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schlafly U.S. Patent No. 5,633,998 filed 7/18/1995 as applied to claims 1,**

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**13 and 25, in view of Liaw et al. (herein after Liaw) U.S. Patent No. 6,104,325 filed 4/16/1996.**

**In regard to dependent claim 4,** Schlafly does not disclose *wherein the first set of data comprises one or more mathematical operators; and wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more operation fields*. However, Liaw shows that a spreadsheet can contains mathematical operators and operations fields in the first column (Liaw Figures 4H, 4I, and 4J). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add numerical operators to the first column to calculate different information such as loan amounts and payments as taught by Liaw Col 11 Lines 8-48.

**In regard to dependent claim 6,** Schlafly does not disclose *wherein the first set of data comprises one or more numeric values; and wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more number fields*. However, Liaw shows that a spreadsheet can contain numeric values and numeric fields in the first column (Liaw Figures 4H, 4I, and 4J). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Liaw to Schlafly providing Schlafly the benefit of adding numerical operators to the first column to calculate different information such as loan amounts and payments as taught by Liaw Col 11 Lines 8-48.

**In regard to dependent claim 12,** Schlafly discloses where values are automatically calculated to display result (Schlafly Fig 2A)

Schlafly does not disclose *wherein the first set of data and the second set of data comprise one or more mathematical operators and one or more numeric values*. However, Liaw shows that a spreadsheet can contain mathematical operators, numeric values (Liaw Figures 4H, 4I, and 4J). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the



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invention to add numerical operators to the first column to calculate different information such as loan amounts and payments as taught by Liaw Col 11 Lines 8-48.

**In regard to dependent claim 16**, claim 16 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 18**, claim 18 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 6 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 24**, claim 24 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 12 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 28**, claim 28 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 30**, claim 30 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 6 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 36**, claim 36 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 12 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

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6. **Claims 8-9, 20-21, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schlafly U.S. Patent No. 5,633,998 filed 7/18/1995 as applied to claims 1, 13 and 25 in view of Marshall et al. (herein after Marshall) U.S. Patent No. 5,926,806 filed 10/18/1996.**

**In regard to dependent claim 8,** Schlafly does not disclose *wherein the first set of data comprises one or more comment strings; and wherein the first set of fields comprises one or more comment fields*. However, Marshall shows a spreadsheet that has a column for comments labeled memo (Marshall Figure 14) and it is well know in the art that column that contain comments can be placed anywhere from the first column to the last column. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Marshall to Schlafly providing Schlafly the benefit of having a column that contains Memo's or comments so the user can understand what the particular row contains as show by Marshall in Figure 14.

**In regard to dependent claim 9** Schlafly does not disclose *wherein the second set of data comprises one or more comment strings; and wherein the second set of fields comprises one or more comment fields*. However, Marshall shows a spreadsheet that has a column for comments labeled memo (Marshall Figure 14) and it is well know in the art that column that contain comments can be placed anywhere from the first column to the last column. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Marshall to Schlafly providing Schlafly the benefit of having a column that contains Memo's or comments so the user can understand what the particular row contains as show by Marshall in Figure 14.

**In regard to dependent claim 20,** claim 20 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 8 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 21**, claim 21 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 9 and is rejected along the same rationale.

System (Schlafly Abstract i.e. system)

**In regard to dependent claim 32**, claim 32 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 8 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

**In regard to dependent claim 33**, claim 33 in addition to the following reflects the same subject matter as claimed in claim 9 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Carrier Medium (Schlafly Col 5 Lines 14-15 i.e. computer system)

### ***Conclusion***

7. **The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.**

Bloomer et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,359,708	issued	10/25/1994
Banning et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,485,567	issued	1/16/1996
Sheffield	U.S. Patent No. 5,566,330	issued	10/15/1996

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is 703-305-8784. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

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**Or faxed to:**

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**


(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

**Or:**

(703) 746-7238 (for after-final communications)

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).**

Londra Burge  
5/25/04

  
STEPHEN S. HONG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER